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M/EB 473/63  
7 November 1963  
Copy 7

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Military-Economics Division, ORR

25X1 ATTENTION:

THROUGH: Chief, Requirements Branch, Reconnaissance Group, CGS

FROM: Chief, CIA/PID (NFIC)

SUBJECT: Alternate MRBM Launch Sites

REFERENCE: (a) Requirement C-RR-3-80, 670  
(b) CIA/PID Project C 1436-63

1. This memorandum is in response to your requirement dated 9 October 1963 which requests examination and analysis of eight locations in the USSR where patterns have been identified which may be indicative of alternate MRBM launch sites.

2. After close examination of applicable [ ] photography, five of the eight referenced patterns have been identified as fixed field MRBM launch sites. These are found associated with the following MRBM and IRBM launch complexes: Ukmerge, Postavy, Nigrande, Maykop and Smorgon. The suspect patterns referenced near Polotsk, Voru and Brody are not considered to be similar and will not be included in this memorandum. A detailed description of each of the five sites follows. A line drawing of each site is included as an attachment to this memorandum.

(a) Ukmerge Fixed Field MRBM Launch Site: This site, consisting of one and possibly two pad-like clearings and an associated system of wide radius turn roads, is located in a forest at 55-07-15N 24-43-45E, 2.8 nm east-southeast of Ukmerge MRBM Launch Site 1, 3.9 nm south of Ukmerge MRBM Launch Site 2 and 8 nm south-southwest of the village of Ukmerge. (Map reference: AMS Series N 501, sheet NN 35-1, scale 1:250,000 and on UBATC Series 200, sheet 0168-8NL, 3rd edition, scale 1:200,000.) The first [ ] coverage of this area was in [ ] and this site was present at that time. The best coverage is on [ ] and it is from this photography that the attached line drawing was derived. The latest coverage is on [ ] and the site appears unchanged from when first observed in [ ]. The long axis of one of the pad clearings is aligned on an azimuth of 215 degrees while the shape of the other clearing is so irregular that the determination of an azimuth is not possible. The pads at the nearby Ukmerge MRBM Launch Site 2 are aligned on an azimuth of [ ]. At the Ukmerge MRBM Launch Complex proper, Sites 1 and 2 were first observed through heavy clouds on [ ] and were complete, however the location of the field site was cloud covered at that time.

NGA Review  
Complete

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Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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SUBJECT: Alternate MRBM Launch Sites

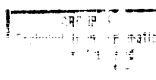
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(b) Postavy Fixed Field MRBM Launch Site: This site, located in a forest at 55-09-30N 26-52-45E, is 0.8 nm west of Postavy MRBM Launch Site 1 3 nm north-northeast of the village of Postavy. (Map reference: AMS series N 501, sheet NN 35-2, scale 1:250,000 and USATC series 200, sheet 0168-9HL, 2nd edition, scale 1:200,000.) It consists of a system of wide radius turn roads with one and possibly two narrow clearings where missiles could be erected. It is connected indirectly with Postavy MRBM Launch Site 1 and was present in [ ] when the area was first covered by [ ] photography. Postavy MRBM Launch Sites 1 and 2 were also present at this time and appeared complete. The latest coverage is on [ ] and the site appears basically unchanged. The pad-like clearings are oriented on an azimuth of 220 degrees while the pads at Postavy 1 are oriented on 205 degrees.

(c) Nigrande Fixed Field MRBM Launch Site: This launch site is located in a forest at 56-28-15N 21-51-00E positioned between the launch site and housing and support facility of Nigrande Hardened IRBM Launch Area 3. (Map references: AMS series N 501, sheet NO 34-11, scale 1:250,000 and USATC series 200, sheet 0152-25HL, scale 1:200,000. The field site was present on [ ] the first [ ] coverage of the area. Construction of Nigrande Hardened IRBM Launch Site 3 had not yet been started in [ ] [ ] The closest MRBM launch complex is at Paplaka 20 nm to the west, which was first observed on [ ] and was complete at that time. This field site consisted of two pad clearings positioned 450 feet apart and oriented on an azimuth of 240 degrees before being partially obliterated by the construction of the Nigrande Hardened IRBM Launch Area 3. Other than this partial obliteration no change is evident at this site between [ ] and the latest coverage in [ ]. The orientation of all pads at the Paplaka Complex is 215 degrees. The attached line drawing indicates the relationship of the field site to the hardened IRBM site now under construction.

(d) Maykop Fixed Field MRBM Launch Site: This site is located in a forest at 44-31-15N 40-14-15E, 9.7 nm east of Maykop Launch Site 1 and 7 nm southeast of the city of Maykop. (Map references: AMS series N 501, sheet NL 37-12, scale 1:250,000 and USATC series 200, sheet 0249-24AL, 2nd edition, scale 1:200,000.) Neither this site nor the nearby Maykop MRBM Launch Complex was present in [ ]. The field site was present the next time the area was observed which was [ ] as were Maykop MRBM Launch Sites 1 and 2. Site 1 (Type II) appeared complete while Site 2 (Type IV) was in a mid-stage of construction. The field site now consists of four pad clearings oriented on an azimuth of 205 degrees arranged as two pairs of pads placed in tandem with a separation of 480 feet between pads. Maykop

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- 25X1 Launch Site 1 has an orientation of 190 degrees. Only three pads were  
 25X1 present between the time this field site was first observed in [REDACTED]  
 the coverage in [REDACTED]. The fourth pad was added between  
 [REDACTED] and the latest coverage which was in [REDACTED]
- 25X1 (e) Smorgon Fixed Field MRBM Launch Site: This site consists of  
 one and possibly two pad-like clearings with an associated system of wide radius  
 turn roads located in a forest at 54-34-30N 26-21-30E approximately midway between  
 the two soft IRBM launch sites at Smorgon. This site was present in [REDACTED]  
 25X1 [REDACTED] the first time the area was observed on [REDACTED] photography as  
 was Smorgon IRBM Launch Site 1. Construction of Launch Site 2 was just beginning  
 25X1 when the area was covered on [REDACTED]. The field site has remained  
 unchanged through the latest coverage which was [REDACTED]. The  
 azimuth of the pad clearing is 220 degrees which is the same as that at the two  
 nearby soft IRBM launch sites. The closest MRBM launch complexes are Postavy,  
 40 nm to the north-northeast and Vselyub, 50 nm to the south-southwest.

3. When these five field launch sites are compared with each other and with the three other sites of this type previously identified near Anastasyevka, Derazhnya and Kamenets Podolskiy, a number of similarities are apparent.

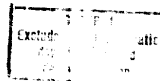
(a) All are located in forests providing good protection from horizontal observation, although none are visibly secured. However, the fact that each site consists only of clearings in a forest and unimproved wide radius turn roads would probably preclude the identification of a similar site placed in an open field where the tonal contrast would not be so great.

(b) None of the sites have any recognizable buildings or structures associated with them.

(c) Comparative coverages of all identified sites of this type indicates that they remain unchanged in appearance or even become more evident at times. None have become more difficult to see. This is in contrast to multiple coverages of most MRBM and IRBM launch sites where generally the installation has become more obscure in appearance since first being identified. This is probably due to either attempted camouflage, growth of vegetation, or both. This comparison of appearances may indicate that the field launch sites are used extensively, possibly for training.

4. It is suggested that these fixed field sites may serve in one of the following three capacities or a combination thereof.

(a) As troop training sites for practice in handling missiles in a field environment without drawing undue attention to the location of actual alternate launch sites.

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(b) As temporary launch sites to give an operational capability to a complex while more permanent sites were under construction.

(c) As actual alternate launch sites located an appropriate distance from the primary sites to which units could redeploy after firing their initial salvo and prepare to launch another missile while remaining relatively safe from retaliatory action.

25X1 5. The photo analyst on this project is [redacted] and he may be contacted on [redacted] if you have any further questions concerning this project.

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6. This project is considered to be complete.

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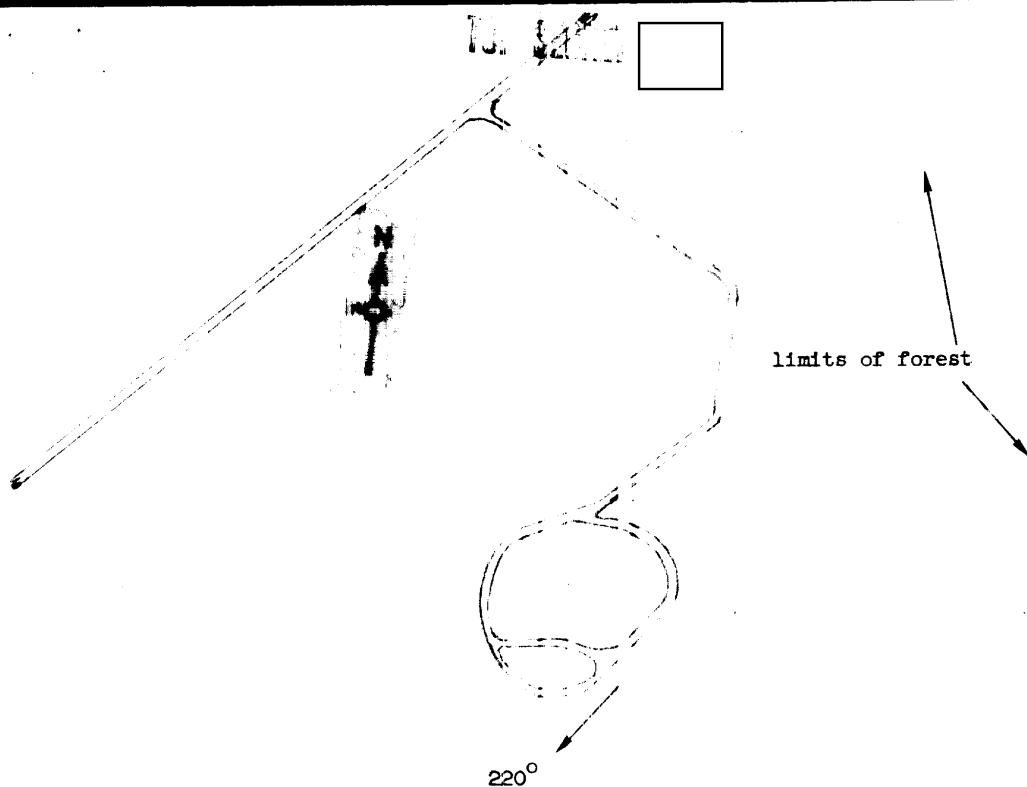
Enclosures:

- 1 - Five (5) line drawings  
(CIA/PID/MEB-P-257/63 thru P-261/63)

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25X

POSTAVY FIXED FIELD MRBM  
LAUNCH SITE

approx. scale: 1 inch = 500 feet.

CIA/PID/MEB-P-257/63  
Attachment to:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

25X

5

5X1

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215°

limits of forest

UNKNOWN FIXED FIELD MRBM  
LAUNCH SITE.

approx. scale: 1 inch = 500 feet.

25X1

MEB-P-258/63

Attachment to:

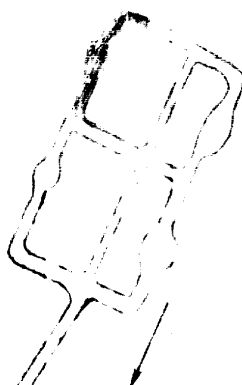
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25X



Items shown in red were added  
between



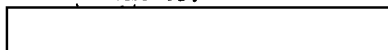
205°

MAYKOP FIXED FIELD MRBM  
LAUNCH SITE

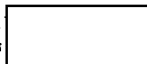
approx. scale: 1 inch = 500 feet.

limits of forest

CIA/PID/MEB-P-259/63  
Attachment to:



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Smorgon #2 launch area

entire area forested

cut lines in forest

220°

SMORGON FIXED FIELD MRBM  
LAUNCH SITE

Approx scale: 1 inch = 500 feet.  
items shown in red were present in

CIA/PID/MEB-P-260/63  
Attachment to:

Smorgon #1 launch area

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entire area forested



Nigrande #3 launch site.

Borrow pits

240°

Nigrande #3 housing and support facility

NIGRANDE FIXED FIELD MRBM  
LAUNCH SITE

approx. scale: 1 inch = 500 feet.

The roads and clearings shown in red were present in

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25X1

CIA/PID/MEB-P-261/63

Attachment to:

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